



FACT SHEET

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Sustainability at Olympic Corrections Center

Operations

- **Food Composting:** Food waste from [Olympic Corrections Center](#) and nearby Clallam Bay Corrections Center is collected and composted weekly. Olympic composts about 380 tons of material and produces about 12.1 tons of usable compost each year. Compost produced from this process is used throughout the facility as non-toxic weed and insect control, as well as landscape water conservation.
- **Offenders Recycle:** Each living unit has an individual recycling program in which offenders inspect trash and sort cardboard, paper, food waste, aluminum and other recyclables. Aluminum cans are recycled and sold as revenue for the toy shop program. Olympic recycles about 2,500 pounds of cardboard and paper each month.
- **Recycled Wood:** Scrap wood from the Westport Shipyard is salvaged by Olympic and repurposed to make items for the toy shop. Wood that would ordinarily end up in the landfill is converted by offenders into planter boxes, jewelry boxes and other items. Each year these items are donated to the Quillayute Valley Scholarship Auction. Proceeds raised from these items brought in more than \$11,000 for the students of the Quillayute Valley School District this year.
- **Dog Program:** Olympic, in partnership with the Clallam County Humane Society, gives troubled dogs a second chance at life. During an intensive eight-week training period, offenders teach the dogs how to obey basic commands so they can be adopted in the community instead of being euthanized. Offenders are carefully screened for the program and learn responsibility and empathy.
- **Greenhouses:** Offenders built two new greenhouses from salvaged materials to grow fresh organic vegetables. Offenders, most of who have never gardened, learn about organic soil amendment, planting, water retention techniques and harvesting. Working in the greenhouse provides meaningful and productive activity for the offenders, and the fresh produce supplements the offenders' diets.
- **Lawn Mowers:** Gas-powered push mowers were replaced by reel mowers pushed by offenders. Reel mowers use no gasoline and produce zero emissions.
- **Reusable Food Containers:** Olympic's food service program ended the use of all Styrofoam and other non-reusable containers and converted to reusable food containers for meal service.
- **Recycled Clothing:** State-issued offender clothing that is no longer wearable is forwarded to Correctional Industries for repair or reutilization.
- **Trashcan Liners:** Olympic reduced the number of plastic trashcan liners it purchases and throws away each year. Staff members sort their office waste and reuse non-soiled trash liners to minimize usage.
- **Rainwater Harvesting:** Rainwater runoff is collected in an underground catchment system for use in the horticulture program.

Facilities

- **Energy Efficiency:** An energy audit conducted last year lead to recommended upgrades for sustained energy reductions. Water-cooled condensers were replaced with more efficient air-cooled condensers, lowering both energy and water usage. A computerized energy management system is slated to be installed this year.

More Information

Visit the Department of Corrections' [sustainability website](#) for statewide information.